

Town of Holbrook

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Public Works

November 14, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write to express our concern about, and disapproval of, the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05- 311.

Holbrook, Massachusetts is a small community of roughly 12,000 people that is home to a very strong, active Community Media Center. Holbrook Community Access and Media (HCAM) operates our PEG programming and is a vital element to our community.

There is no way to put a value on the work that HCAM does. They have become entrenched in the fabric of this town. They provide televised coverage for a majority of our boards and committees, which allows us to provide transparency and information to our community. HCAM supports a thriving educational program in our school system and a growing number of publicly produced programs for a by our community.

This local presence enables the residents of our Holbrook to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. That was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels, – something that was never the intent of the Act. That being said, any significant or partial loss of funding would be devastating for our community.

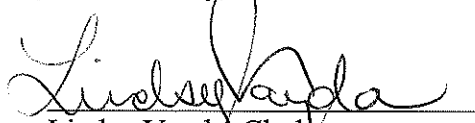
We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG channels in our community and others, by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.


Sincerely,

HOLBROOK BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Pamela E. Campanella, Chairman


Joshua Reilly, Vice-Chairman


Lindsay Vayda, Clerk


Richard B. McGaughey, Associate

CC: The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner